

She was an energetic campaign volunteer—even in her midnineties, she was frequently out on the campaign trail, telling anyone who would listen why her son was the best choice for mayor. And when she couldn't be there physically, she was still present because she was tightly weaved into her son's life and as a result his political speeches. Her values were instilled in her children—hard work, intellectual curiosity, and ambition. These were values Charlotte Bloomberg lived day-in and day-out. She graduated high school at 16 and went to New York University. She raised two great children—Michael and Marjorie Tiven. And when her husband died while Michael was in college, Charlotte forged forward and became the family breadwinner. Mayor Bloomberg later wrote, above all his mother was a woman who lived according to the belief that “we’ve got to take care of each other.” That is a lesson we should all hold close.

Mr. President, if there is an example we can all learn from the life of Charlotte Bloomberg, it is that we can always do more for our community, our State, and our country. So today we join the Bloomberg family in mourning the passing of Charlotte Bloomberg, but we also join to rejoice in the blessings she shared with everyone who knew her and the indomitable spirit her friends won't ever forget—a spirit that is the very best of Medford, MA.●

TRIBUTE TO JACLYN LICHT

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, student activism has always been at the forefront of every step forward we have taken as a country and as a society. It was true for my generation in the civil rights movement, the women's movement, and the effort to end the Vietnam war. In recent years it was students—young people—who put issues like AIDS in Africa and global poverty front and center on the Nation's agenda when few others showed much interest in the fight.

Today I would like to recognize the special efforts of a student activist in my State—Jaclyn Licht, a young woman carving out time from her studies to raise awareness about the brutal tactics of the Lord's Resistance Army, LRA, in east and central Africa. Right now Jaclyn is lobbying to maintain the integrity and funding for the landmark LRA disarmament bill that passed in the 111th Congress. And she recently penned an insightful article about the important role that all citizens play in promoting democracy and peace throughout the world. Jaclyn's article appeared in “The Vanguard,” the student newspaper of Buckingham Browne & Nichols Upper School in Cambridge, MA. She writes convincingly about the right of Americans to petition their government and urges her fellow Americans not to waste that right, especially given the uncertain fate of the LRA disarmament bill. Jaclyn reminds us that “students . . . have the great-

est ability to take advantage of this right” and urges activism on the part of her classmates.

Along with representatives from the group Resolve, Jaclyn recently met with staff in my Boston office to discuss how important this legislation is for the people of east and central Africa. She also shared her views about America's role in protecting the people most vulnerable to the brutalities of the LRA.

For Jaclyn, of course, activism is in her DNA—an inheritance from two parents who have always made the cause of justice their concern. But Jaclyn is already writing her own chapter in that family history of urging change.

Mr. President, I am submitting the text of Jaclyn's article to the RECORD as an example to all of us.

The information follows.

[From The Vanguard, June 9, 2011]

STUDENT ACTIVISTS LOBBY TO PROTECT LRA DISARMAMENT BILL

(By Jaclyn Licht)

In the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, citizens are guaranteed the right to free speech, including the right to “petition the government for a redress of grievances.” Though many students may easily overlook the meaning of these words, it is students, in fact, who have the greatest ability to take advantage of this right.

In early April, I received an email from Resolve, an organization dedicated to raising awareness about the terror of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in Central and East Africa. The email outlined a nationwide lobbying campaign taking place throughout the month and offered an opportunity for Massachusetts residents to attend a meeting with a staff member at the office of Senator John Kerry. Last year, President Obama signed into law the LRA Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act, a bill unanimously passed by Congress that ensures the United States will aid in dismantling the rebel group and protect affected civilians. Though this bill only requires less than .002 percent of our national budget, economic challenges have brought about risks of foreign aid budget cuts and the possibility of losing the bill's budget completely. Therefore, Americans throughout the country attended lobby meetings with their local government representatives in order to guarantee that the LRA Disarmament Act budget will remain intact.

The meeting was led by a student from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and the group of ten comprised Resolve supporters who were mainly high school or college students. We were greeted warmly by Senator Kerry's representative at his Boston office. After taking our seats around a large table in a spacious conference room, we commenced our discussion. The discussion lasted for almost 30 minutes, longer than we had anticipated. Each of the group members outlined the current issues posed by the LRA and proceeded to explain the need for our government representatives to support these efforts as well. As Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Kerry could hold much influence in this area of concern. The staff member nodded his head vigorously throughout our discussion, frequently asking questions about the situation in central Africa and about Resolve. He explained that Senator Kerry and his staff were already familiar with the deadly situation in countries such as Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and South

Sudan. He assured us that the Senator was very concerned about the situation in the region, as well, and even outlined useful tips to help us carry out additional meetings with other government officials. After outlining the key information we hoped would be passed on to Senator Kerry, we prepared to depart and began to thank him for his time. However, the senator's representative interrupted us and asked us each how we became involved in Resolve's efforts. Our reasons for becoming involved varied, but each one shared a similar message: that we could not allow such violence by this African rebel group go unnoticed.

The dedicated interest of the government officials in our concern for this issue reflects not only the overwhelming number of opportunities available in this democratic country, but also the true power of student activism in particular. Throughout this country, students frequently raise awareness for issues of local or global concern often only in their own communities. While it is absolutely crucial to rally whole communities around the cause, the opportunity to lobby government officials or their staff directly is widely overlooked. While citizens of several countries around the world are prohibited from such petitioning, this country and its officials welcome the opinions of those they are representing. Moreover, American students must not hesitate to contact their government leaders to express concern for any issue. Throughout the United States' history, young adults have instilled many lasting changes in the country through many modes of activism. Therefore, government officials take much interest in meeting with student lobbyists, for it grants them the ability to learn and hear firsthand from an influential segment of the population. Moreover, students have the ability to take action immediately through direct contact with government officials to advocate for changes that will shape the history of our country and our world.●

TRIBUTE TO ALAN MACDONALD

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, we are lucky in Massachusetts to have men and women who—at the community level—give of themselves to make lasting contributions to our quality of life, our neighborhoods, and our economic footing. I have always thought it was no coincidence that when DeTocqueville came to America to study the country's “character,” he spent much of his time in Massachusetts and reflected there that “America is great because Americans are good.”

DeTocqueville would find much of that character still abides in Alan MacDonald, executive director of the Massachusetts Business Roundtable, whose life has been defined by good old fashioned civic leadership—for 23 years a driving force making Massachusetts a better place to live, to work and to raise a family.

Today, as Alan prepares for a much-deserved retirement, I thank him for everything he has done for our State.

Throughout 23 years at the helm of the Massachusetts Business Roundtable, Alan brought together the policymakers, industries and educators who make Massachusetts the center of economic growth, educational excellence and health care innovation it is today. The Massachusetts Business Roundtable set a laser focus on

strengthening our State's long-term economic health. Alan himself oversaw the creation of task forces on health care, on education and workforce development, on transportation and infrastructure and corporate social responsibility.

The results are clear for all to see. Massachusetts is creating jobs faster than almost every other State, our economy is expanding at twice the national growth rate, and our students are outperforming their peers around the country. Now, there are a lot of people to thank for that, and many who have played a part in the success of our State—but one of them is very definitely Alan Macdonald. Thanks in part to the strategic thinking under Alan's leadership, Massachusetts became the model for health care reforms that expand coverage and lower costs. It is one of the reasons that a well-educated work force is our State's calling card in the global economy. And it is one of the reasons our State has a competitive edge in building a 21st century infrastructure and developing clean energy. Thank you, Alan.

Alan's retirement gives him more time to spend with his wife Jane, more time with his two sons, Alan and Daniel and their families, and more time with his four grandchildren. And I think we can all agree that he has earned the extra time for his other great passions—baseball and golf.

But fortunately, the Massachusetts Business Roundtable has made Alan its president emeritus. So as the roundtable navigates the coming challenges, it is comforting to know that Alan Macdonald won't be far away.●

RECOGNIZING MORNING GLORY NATURAL FOODS

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, our economy relies on small businesses, particularly small, family-owned firms that have been in operation for generation after generation. One such small business, Morning Glory Natural Foods in Brunswick, will be celebrating its "30 Years on Maine Street" on July 15, complete with festivities for the whole community. Today I wish to commend Morning Glory Natural Foods for its remarkable achievement.

Morning Glory Natural Foods opened its doors in May of 1981, proudly serving the mid-coast community of Brunswick with fresh, local, and organic products—from delicious local produce to organic cotton clothing, and everything in between. Since then, the firm has grown to incorporate dozens of other Maine-made products in its catalogue of goods that truly exemplify the virtues of a local economic leader.

Like so many small Maine businesses, Morning Glory is rooted in family tradition. The Tarpinian family has continually operated the store since its opening 30 years ago. It is particularly pleasing to acknowledge the successes of small, family-owned businesses, because these companies help maintain

the strong, community-oriented character of Main Street America. And certainly Brunswick's Maine Street is a shining example of this uniquely American proposition.

The long-term success and longevity of Morning Glory Natural Foods and the Tarpinian family is a byproduct of the strong work ethic, customer service, and decision to sell quality, local products at affordable prices. Indeed, this business serves the local community on two levels: by providing fresh, environmentally responsible products to Maine citizens, while also supporting other local businesses by electing to sell their products. Morning Glory Natural Foods and the Tarpinians are a true testament to the rewards of hard work and perseverance.

On Friday, July 15, Morning Glory Natural Foods will be holding a celebration of "30 Years on Maine Street," a storewide celebration being held at their location in the middle of Brunswick. Events include free food and drink, raffles, and sampling throughout the day, a way to say thanks to the community and the store's loyal customers. Morning Glory also plans to have an abundance of local food vendors and farmers lining the street, another wonderful way to promote and encourage growth in the local economy.

Small businesses like Morning Glory Natural Foods are the heart and soul of our Nation's communities. Main Streets across America are chock full of restaurants, grocery stores, and shopping boutiques which provide citizens with the goods and wares they need in a friendly and convenient location and deserve our recognition. Indeed, Morning Glory Natural Foods is a prime example of a small business that has persevered through a turbulent economy time and again, and has come out on top each time. I congratulate everyone at Morning Glory for this incredible milestone and wish them many more years of success.●

REMEMBERING ROGER WILLIAMS

● Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, today I wish to reflect on a recent article on one of the most influential heroes from the earliest days of our Nation's history: Roger Williams of Rhode Island.

Roger Williams' legacy is well known in my home State of Rhode Island—the State he helped found after being banished from Massachusetts for his beliefs about religious tolerance.

Roger Williams argued that religious beliefs should be kept separate from government policies and that government should not impose a specific set of religious beliefs on its citizens. The separation of church and state is widely embraced today, both in the United States and in many countries around the world. But in the 1600s, this was a scandalous idea. The Puritans who colonized the Massachusetts Bay Colony fled England because of religious

persecution, but they had no intention of allowing religious freedom in the new colonies. Rather, they established the Massachusetts Bay colony as a theocracy that enforced adherence to their particular religious beliefs with the gallows and the lash.

Roger Williams rejected this framework, and was forced to flee Massachusetts. Upon arriving at the northwestern shore of Narragansett Bay in 1636, he negotiated an agreement with the Narragansett Indians to establish a new colony on that land. As Williams wrote, "...having made covenant of peaceable neighborhood with all the sachems and natives round about us, and having, in a sense of God's merciful providence unto me in my distress, called the place Providence, I desired it might be for a shelter for persons distressed for conscience." Later on these views would be enshrined in Rhode Island's founding charter, providing "full liberty in religious concerns."

Williams' principles of tolerance are the foundation on which our state, and afterwards our nation, were built. To this point, I request to have printed in the RECORD a recent op-ed from the Providence Journal by Rhode Island College Professor J. Stanley Lemons entitled "Assessing the global importance of Roger Williams," which does an excellent job of capturing this piece of American history.

The information follows.

[From the Providence Journal, Friday, June 24, 2011]

ASSESSING THE GLOBAL IMPORTANCE OF ROGER WILLIAMS

(By J. Stanley Lemons)

The greatest contribution that the U.S. has made to world religion is the concept and practice of separation of church and state, and that was started in Providence with Roger Williams in 1636.

Even if nothing in the rest of the history of the state was remarkable, Providence would still have that one world-class contribution to its credit. It was the first place in modern history where citizenship and religion were separated, where freedom of conscience was the rule.

While his ideas were reviled and attacked in the 17th Century, they became embodied in the U.S. Constitution in 1789 and the Bill of Rights, appended to it in 1791.

Have you wondered why there is a Roger Williams Lodge of B'nai B'rith? Why the oldest synagogue (Touro Synagogue, in Newport) in America is in Rhode Island? Have you ever wondered why Rhode Island never had a witch trial? Or blasphemy trials? Nor hanged, whipped or jailed people because of religion? All the other colonies executed witches, but not Rhode Island. Most had blasphemy trials, but not Rhode Island.

Nearly everywhere else in colonial America, people of faith were persecuted, but not in Rhode Island. Massachusetts hanged four Quakers, and Virginia imprisoned dozens of Baptists. Maryland, which was created as a haven for Roman Catholics, came to outlaw Catholic priests and prohibited Roman Catholics from inheriting property. These things did not happen here because Roger Williams founded Providence to be a "shelter for those distressed of conscience." Rhode Island's freedom of religion prevented such religious laws and abuses.

It is well to recall how this came about. Roger Williams got into serious trouble in